ARTICLES
TO BE
ENQUIRED OF
Within the
Archdeaconry of Saint *ALBANS*,
IN THE
VISITATION
OF
Mark Franck D.D.
ARCH-DEACON of
S^t. ALBANS
Holden the in year of our Lord 1662.

LONDON,
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in S. *Pauls* Church-yard, 1662.

The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Parish.

YOu shall Swear to enquire with your best diligence, and make true answer to the Articles in this Book; and to Present every Person that now is, or of late was, inhabiting within your Parish, that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty, therein mentioned. And this you shall do uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, Hope of Reward, or fear of Displeasure. *So help you God.*

ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION and ENQUIRY
within the
ARCH-DEACONRY of Saint *ALBANS*.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. IS your Parish Church or Chappel in good and sufficient repair, both for the Roofe, Windows, Floor, and Seats?

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chappel, or Steeple been demolished or pulled down? what part, and how long since? or any of the Lead, Timber or Wells thereunto formerly belonging, any way imbezelled or sold, and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone with a cover? and doth the same stand at or near the neather end of your Church, in such manner as anciently and usually Fonts have stood for the baptizing of children? or hath your Font been removed and converted to any prophane or private use? and to whom?

4. What Vessels, Furniture, Books, Desks, or other Utensils, Ornaments, or things belonging formerly to your Church, have been taken or made away, or concealed? declare the person or persons that have done it, and what you know concerning it?

5. Is there a decent Communion-table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another Covering of white linnen, to be spread thereon at the time of the Administration of the Lords Supper? Is the same Table placed conveniently as it ought? and whether is it so used in or out of Divine Service or Sermon as is not agreeable to the Holy use of it? and have you a fair Chalice or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flagons?

6. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service, a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion, a large Bible of the last translation, and a book of Common-prayer lately published, Anno 1662. the book of Homilies set forth by Authority, and a printed table of the degrees wherein marriages are prohibited, and a book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and a decent Surplice and Hood? And are the Ten Commandments set upon the East end of your Church or Chappel?

7. Have you a Register-book in parchment of Christenings, Burials and Marriages? and is the same kept in all points according to the ancient use?

8. Have you a Book of Paper, to record the names and licenses of such Strangers as are admitted to Preach in your Church or Chappel? and do such Strangers subscribe their names? As also a third book for the Churchwardens accounts? as also a Chest with locks and keyes, wherein to keep the said Books, and the aforementioned Furniture? And lastly have you a Bier with a black hearsecloth, for the more decent burial of the dead?

Tit. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any door into it? and how long since?

2. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Outhouses in good repair? have any of them been defaced or pulled down without license? have there been any encroachments made upon the same

same, or any of the ancient marks or bounds removed or changed? and by whom?

3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? Or have there been any alienations made of any of them? and by whom, as you know, or have heard?

Tit. III.

Concerning Ministers.

1. IS your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally ordained, according to the Lawes of the Church of England?

2. Hath he been legally Instituted and inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two months after his induction, publickly in the Church upon some Sunday or Holiday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto? Hath he subscribed also as the late Act of Uniformity requires, and read the Declaration of it in the Church?

3. Is he resident among you? how many weeks hath he been absent from you without urgent necessity?

4. Hath your Minister a Curate? Is he in holy Orders, and conformable to the Lawes of the Church? Is he allowed by the Ordinary?

5. Doth your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, if you have any, perform his Office in all things according to the Rubrick of the book of Common-prayer lately established, and the Act of Uniformity published therewith? Doth he read the prayers distinctly, gravely, plainly, and with due attention and reverence? Doth he read them wholy and fully, or wherein is he deficient?

6. Doth your Minister at the reading Divine Service, wear a Surplice and Hood?

7. Doth he observe the Holy-dales and Fasting-dales, the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as is appointed by the Rubrick?

8. Is your Minister licensed to Preach? If so, doth he constantly (not having a reasonable impediment) preach one Sermon in your Church or Chappel every Sunday? or if he be not licensed, or be hin-

dred

dred, doth he procure one to supply his Office, by preaching or reading one of the Homilies?

9. Doth your Minister instruct the youth in your Parish in the Church Catechism, and prepare and present them to be confirmed by the Bishop?

10. Doth he neglect or delay to visit the Sick, or to baptize any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

11. Hath your Minister married any persons without publishing the Banes on three Sundaies or Holy-daies, or hath he married any in private houses, or not between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the morning, unless he had a license or dispensation so to do?

12. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings or Exercises not appointed by Authority? Or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay person hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrarie to the Lawes and Canons in that case provided?

13. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblameable and exemplary life? doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses, a common Gamester, a prophane or obscene Jester, a Swearer, Rayler, Scoffer or Quarreller? Doth he set neighbours at variance one with another, or encourage them to suits or contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate drinker, or vehemently suspected of incontinency with any person, either within your Parish or without? Doth he wear his hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his apparel grave and decent both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his carriage and conversation in any kind whatsoever disorderly or scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ? If so, either declare and manifest it, or defame not the Governours of the Church as the countenancers of vitious and scandalous Ministers, seeing they cannot otherwise come to the knowledg of them.

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

1. IS there any in your Pariſh that make profeſſion of anie other Religion, than what is eſtabliſhed in the Church of England? And that refuſe to come unto the publick Aſſemblies, Prayers, or Service of the Church? If there be anie what are their names?

2. Is there anie perſon in your Pariſh, that lyeth under a Common fame, or ſuſpicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt? Are there anie common Drunkards within your Pariſh, or common Swearers, or Blaſphemers of Gods Name, or anie that are noted to be Raylers, unclean or filthy talkers, or ſowers of ſedition, faction and diſcord amongſt their neighbours?

3. Do anie of your Pariſh upon Sundaies or Holy-daies follow their bodily and ordinary labour, or permit their ſervants ſo to do? are anie Shops kept open, or wares ſold? or do anie Victuallers, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and ſellers of Beer or Ale, ſuffer anie perſons to tipple or game in their houſes upon thoſe days?

4. Doth every perſon in your Pariſh duely reſort to your Church or Chappel upon Sundaies and Holy-daies, and there decently and orderly, as well during Divine Service, as Preaching the Word of God, demean themſelves reverently, uncovering their heads, kneeling at Prayers, ſtanding up when the Creed and Goſpel are read?

5. Is there anie in your Pariſh that refuſe to ſend their Infant-children to be baptized in the Church, unleſs in caſe of urgent danger? or do they ſend them to be baptized in other Pariſhes? or are they baptized after other form than is appointed? or are they kept unbaptized longer than is allowed? or is there anie Infants or more aged perſons as yet unbaptized?

6. Is there anie perſon in your Pariſh of 16 years of age who doth not receive the Sacrament three times in the year, of which Eaſter is alwaies to be one? Doth anie refuſe to receive it kneeling, or reſort to other Pariſhes? or do anie Strangers come to your Pariſh Church to receive it?

7. Are there anie in your Pariſh that be denounced and declared excommunicate for anie crime committed? How long have they been ſo excommunicated? and do anie of your Pariſh kep ſociety with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and abſolved?

8. Are there anie living in your Pariſh, who have been unlawfully

married, contrary to the Lawes of God? or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

9. Are there any married women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

10. Are there any that refuse to pay their duty for Easter offerings, or refuse to contribute to the Rates made for the repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging?

11. Do any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? or any Goods administred without a due grant from the Ordinarie? did anie dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave anie Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

12. Is there any Strife and Contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have anie new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinarie?

Tit. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

1. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clark, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duely attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duely paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

2. Doth he diligently do his duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service, and when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice, toll a Bell, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

Tit. VI.

Concerning School-Masters, Schools, Phisicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by his Ordinarie? doth he teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? doth he cause his Scholars upon Sundays and Holy-dayes orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

2. Doth any in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery? or any woman taken upon her to exercise the office of Midwife, without License from the Ordinarie.

Tit. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men.

1. Are the Churchwardens of your Parish yearly and duely chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners, or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

2. Have the former and last Churchwardens given up their accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Churchwardens the moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. You are further to understand, That according to your Office, you are to provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants.

You also are to exhibit a Bill of Presentments to this Court, of all and every the Offendors in any of the matters mentioned in the precedent Articles, and therein to take the assistance of your Minister. And assure your selves, you therein do but your duty, and shall thereby do service both to God and the Church.

FINIS.